

Everlasting Life

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 285,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Reflect on Jesus' Resurrection as proof of his promise of eternal life
- Recognize that the last book of the Bible, Revelation, ends with John's vision of God's everlasting Kingdom
- Understand that the Particular Judgment is the individual judgment by God at the time of a person's death
- Identify the Last Judgment as God's final triumph over evil, when Christ will come again and bring the Kingdom of God to its fullness

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Late night TV is filled with invitations to call psychics who will tell you about your future. For some people, knowing what the future holds is a huge concern. Although we know no one really knows what the future holds, Jesus did promise that the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness at the end of time. Someday there will be a new Heaven and a new Earth where injustice, war, and hatred will be no more. Justice, peace, and love will reign. As Christians we live with Jesus' promise to return. He will come again in love, a love that will banish evil once and for all.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Seek Ye First
- Now Thank We All Our God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 277,
Everlasting Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that when Jesus rose from the dead, we had proof of his promise of eternal life.

Say: Eternal life means that when we die, we too can live forever with God, if we believe and accept his grace in our lives. Listen to Saint John describe the gift of eternal life.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Say: If we are faithful to God, we will live forever with God in happiness. We call that Heaven. If we choose to turn completely away from God, we will be separated from him forever. We call that “Hell.”

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Heaven and everlasting life.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 278,
Cycles of Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 557

Read aloud the first paragraph. Point out that the story on this page tells about both the beginning and the end of life.

Read aloud the story, “The Little Daisy,” using your voice to express the character’s feelings.

Ask: Why did Daisy feel better after learning that flowers would bloom from her seeds?

Ask your child if he/she has heard another story about a death that led to new life. Have them share that story.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 279,
New Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Ask your child to read aloud the text to introduce the Scripture story.



Proclaim the Scripture. Invite your child to close her/his eyes and imagine John’s vision.

Ask how John described the city in his vision. (a holy city of justice, love, and peace; a life with no more tears, sadness, suffering, or death)

Explain that the holy city is John’s way of describing his vision of the new life Christians will have when Jesus returns.

Tell your child that, although death is an ending, it is also a beginning. Share with them about a time when you have suffered the loss of someone you loved. How did God's promise of eternal life bring you comfort and hope?

Remind your child that Jesus promised his followers everlasting life.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 280,
Our Future
Vivos en Cristo, Page 561

Alternate reading the paragraphs with your child. When you get to the highlighted words, **Heaven, Hell, Purgatory,** and **Last Judgment,** go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions.

Have your child make vocabulary cards and keep them so they can be used for review at the end of the unit.

Turn to Page 281,
The Beginning
and the End
Vivos en Cristo, Page 563

Read aloud these paragraphs.

Remind your child that as followers of Jesus, he/she can look forward to a reunion with God. The Catholic Church looks forward to the time when the Reign of God will come in its fullness.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Thoughts of the Last Judgment can make people uncomfortable. Jesus teaches that God is merciful and compassionate, just and loving. He gave humans free will; they are responsible for their actions. Upon death, it is time to face the ultimate truth. By their actions in this life, especially their acceptance or rejection of the grace and friendship God offers, all people choose everlasting life in Heaven or Hell. Helping your children understand that their choices have consequences that are both immediate but also far reaching, will help them develop wisdom. It will give them a consciousness that this life is only the beginning, and they will be able to welcome the next life with peace, not fear.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 282,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 565

Explain that comforting a person shows that you share his or her feelings of grief, usually because someone the person cared about is very sick or has died.

Read the first two paragraphs aloud.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 283,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 567

Read the paragraph about Saint Joseph.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the people in your family who have died.

Turn to Page 285,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Offering (see Page 324), during your morning prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.